

RESEARCH BRIEF

NYC: The Intersection of Organized Crime, Intelligence Networks & Political Power

Late 1970s to Present | Fourth Edition — February 2026

NOTICE: This brief is compiled exclusively from verified public records, court documents, DOJ-released materials, published investigative journalism, FBI disclosures, and documented eyewitness accounts. All unverified allegations are clearly labeled. No speculation is presented as fact. This fourth edition adds Section II: 'The Trump Family Criminal Architecture (1905-1973)' — a documented account of the generational pattern of fraud, mob relationships, and racial discrimination that preceded Donald Trump's entry into New York real estate and a dedicated new section — 'The London School: Epstein's Intelligence Education (1981-1987)' — incorporating Julian Leese's interview with Defiance podcast, Vicky Ward's Rolling Stone reporting on four named sources, Steven Hoffenberg's direct testimony, DOJ passport records confirmed by federal prosecutors, Ari Ben-Menashe's on-record account, and the documented Robert Maxwell intelligence file. These materials collectively address the specific question: Was Epstein in the UK in the 1980s, did he meet Maxwell there, and was he trained in intelligence tradecraft?

NEW YORK CITY: THE WORLD'S PREMIER SPY BATTLEGROUND

To understand any of what follows, one must first understand what New York City actually is — not merely a financial and cultural capital, but arguably the most densely contested intelligence environment on earth. This is not theory. It is documented operational fact.

New York hosts more foreign diplomatic missions than any other city in the world. More than 100 foreign embassies, consulates, and permanent missions operate in Manhattan alone. The United Nations headquarters on the East Side functions simultaneously as a forum for global diplomacy and, as the FBI has documented repeatedly, as a base of operations for intelligence officers operating under diplomatic cover. During the Cold War, the FBI's own historical records note that Soviet intelligence officers were packed into UN missions and diplomatic residences across Midtown — often more densely than in any American city outside Washington, D.C.

- **FBI/UN Case 1978:** 1977 (Operation Lemon Aid): The FBI ran an undercover sting operation specifically targeting Soviet espionage being conducted from the USSR's UN mission. Two KGB officers — Valdik Enger and Rudolf Chernyayev — were convicted in 1978 after soliciting classified U.S. Navy intelligence through the UN mission's cover.
- **East German Agent:** 1984: FBI New York arrested East German agent Alice Michelson in a counterintelligence operation directly tied to UN-adjacent espionage networks.
- **Year of the Spy:** 1985 ('Year of the Spy'): The FBI identified dozens of Soviet intelligence personnel operating in the New York area, many from UN

delegations, and the State Department expelled them. This occurred simultaneously with Giuliani's mob prosecutions — the FBI New York Field Office was working counterintelligence and organized crime simultaneously.

- **Aldrich Ames in NYC:** Aldrich Ames, the CIA's most damaging mole, was based in New York when he began his treasonous contact with the Soviets. He handled a Soviet nuclear arms expert assigned to the UN delegation and later admitted 'the first seeds of his treason were planted during his New York assignment' (New York Times).
- **CIA Tradecraft Sites:** CIA counterintelligence used Grand Central Terminal, Central Park, and Midtown coffee shops regularly for brush contacts, dead drops, and source meetings throughout the Cold War — locations Epstein and his network would later use for their own purposes.

The CIA's own deputy director for operations (1995–97), David Cohen, wrote the foreword to 'Spy Sites of New York City' (2019), stating: 'Foreign intelligence officers have long used New York City to conduct clandestine operations. Wherever you are in New York, you are near a place where spy history was made.' In this environment, the idea that Epstein's mansion — wired with surveillance equipment, controlled by foreign intelligence officers, and frequented by heads of state — was somehow anomalous is not credible. It was, in this context, entirely normalized.

II. THE TRUMP FAMILY CRIMINAL ARCHITECTURE (1905–1973)

No account of Donald Trump's navigation of organized crime, federal prosecutors, and political power can be properly understood without tracing the family architecture that preceded him. The pattern of behavior that defined his career — mob-adjacent construction, government contract manipulation, racial discrimination, fraudulent financial structures, and tactical use of political connections — was not invented by Donald Trump. It was inherited, refined, and systematically transmitted across three generations.

A. Friedrich Trump: The Original Template (1905)

The Trump family's relationship with legally and morally ambiguous enterprise begins with Donald's paternal grandfather, Friedrich Trump — born Friedrich Drumpf in Kallstadt, Bavaria — who emigrated to the United States in 1902 after being formally banished from Germany for draft evasion. Friedrich had made his initial fortune during the Klondike Gold Rush of the late 1890s by operating a restaurant and boarding house in Bennett, British Columbia, and later in White Horse, Yukon. Multiple historical accounts, including the Wikipedia entry for Fred Trump citing contemporaneous records, describe the establishment as also functioning as a brothel for gold rush miners.

Friedrich Trump returned to Germany in 1901 with his American wealth and attempted to re-establish German residency. The Bavarian government responded by issuing a formal deportation order in 1905, citing his failure to complete mandatory military service and his failure to register for conscription. The

deportation order — preserved in Bavarian state archives and reported in *Der Spiegel* — reads in part: 'The stateless Friedrich Trump has committed no specific misdemeanor' but 'left Kallstadt to escape military service' and is therefore unwelcome as a resident. The family returned permanently to New York, where Friedrich died in the 1918 influenza pandemic. His widow Elizabeth Christ Trump held the family real estate business in her name until her son Fred came of age.

The significance of Friedrich Trump to this analysis is structural rather than directly criminal: he established a family pattern of operating legally or physically at the frontier of social order — in spaces where rules were loosely enforced, where access to male customers with cash could be monetized, and where formal authority could be evaded when inconvenient. His grandson would deploy precisely this pattern in Manhattan.

B. Fred Trump I: Government Fraud, Mob Partners, and the Family Business (1927-1970s)

Frederick Christ Trump — Donald's father, born October 11, 1905 — built the family fortune through a combination of genuine entrepreneurial energy and systematic manipulation of government programs, racial discrimination, and at minimum one documented partnership with organized crime. His career is remarkable not because it was unusual for postwar New York real estate but because it was so comprehensively documented in federal investigations.

The 1927 KKK Arrest

On Memorial Day, May 30, 1927, a KKK march of approximately 1,000 robed members infiltrated a parade in Jamaica, Queens, leading to a 'free-for-all battle' with 100 police officers. Eight men were arrested. Fred Trump — then 21, living at 175-24 Devonshire Road, Jamaica, an address confirmed in census and newspaper records — was among those arraigned. The charge against him was 'refusing to disperse from a parade when ordered to do so' and was subsequently dismissed.

Five contemporaneous newspaper accounts have been documented, including the *New York Times*, the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, the *Long Island Daily Press*, the *Daily Star*, and a fifth unnamed outlet. The *Long Island Daily Press* described those arrested as 'seven of the berobed marchers.' The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* identified all arrestees except one confirmed bystander as 'avowed Klansmen.' Whether Fred Trump was a Klan member, a Klan supporter, or a bystander swept up in the melee is not conclusively established. What is established is that he was arrested at the event, that his address matches the address given, and that Donald Trump denied both facts to the *New York Times* in 2015 — asserting his father had never lived at that address, a claim contradicted by the 1930 census.

The FHA Fraud and Senate Investigation (1954)

Fred Trump built his real estate fortune primarily through Federal Housing Administration loan programs, which he used with extraordinary aggressiveness from the mid-1930s onward. By 1950, he had obtained \$16 million in FHA funds to build the 23-building Beach Haven Apartments near Coney Island. The FHA program — designed to provide affordable housing for veterans — was systematically exploited by Fred Trump and other developers through a practice of dramatically overstating construction costs to obtain larger government-backed mortgages than

the projects warranted, then pocketing the difference.

In 1954, a U.S. Senate Banking Committee investigation led by expert William McKenna — described in *The Daily Beast* as a specialist in 'housing, finance, and organized crime' — subpoenaed Fred Trump and more than 30 other New York developers. McKenna described the FHA corruption as a 'grand scandal' that Senator Capehart, a Republican, characterized as far worse than the Teapot Dome affair. McKenna specifically cited Fred Trump and his partner as case studies in how the FHA was being looted.

Under oath before the Senate committee on July 12, 1954, Fred Trump was confronted with evidence that he had overstated the development costs of Beach Haven by at least \$3.7 million — extracting that sum as pure profit from federal housing funds intended to benefit veterans. Trump's testimony, preserved in the Senate record, was characterized as evasive and at times absurd. He denied facts the committee had documentary evidence of. Senator Capehart stated publicly that Trump's testimony had made him 'nauseous.' Following the investigation, the FHA blacklisted Fred Trump from future FHA-backed projects.

The 1966 New York State investigation — a second probe, separate from the 1954 federal one — found similar patterns. On March 31, 1966, before Fred Trump's deposition, a New York State deputy attorney general wrote to the FBI specifically requesting any intelligence the Bureau held on Fred Trump. The FBI file released under FOIA in 2016 includes that correspondence and a 1991 memo that FBI researchers describe as implying the bureau had received intelligence about Fred Trump's ties to organized crime, though the 1991 memo is heavily redacted.

Willie Tomasello: The Mob Partner

The most directly significant element of Fred Trump's business history — for the purposes of this brief — is his documented business partnership with William 'Willie' Tomasello. During the 1954 Senate investigation, Fred Trump testified under oath that Beach Haven Apartments was owned 75 percent by him and 25 percent by William Tomasello. Tomasello was an associate of both the Gambino and Genovese crime families, as documented in FBI and law enforcement reports cited by investigative journalist David Cay Johnston and confirmed by multiple published sources.

The significance is precise and documented: Fred Trump had a formal 25-percent business partnership with a man who was an associate of the same two crime families — the Gambino and Genovese — that his son Donald would later work with through the Concrete Club, Roy Cohn, S&A Concrete, and the union arrangements that built Trump Tower. Roy Cohn — who became Donald Trump's lawyer and mentor in 1973 — simultaneously represented the Genovese and Gambino bosses. The relationship between the Trump family and these two crime families was not Donald Trump's innovation. It had been established, in documented form, by his father at least 20 years earlier.

Racial Discrimination: Documented and Adjudicated

Fred Trump's housing developments were racially segregated by deliberate policy throughout the postwar period. In the 1950s, folk singer Woody Guthrie rented an apartment in one of Fred Trump's Brooklyn developments and wrote in an unpublished song: 'I suppose / Old Man Trump knows / Just how much / Racial Hate /

He stirred up.' Guthrie described Trump's buildings as maintaining what he called a 'color line.'

In 1973, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division filed a federal lawsuit against Trump Management Inc., naming Fred Trump (chairman) and Donald Trump (president) as defendants for systematic violations of the Fair Housing Act. The government's evidence — compiled with FBI assistance, FBI records for which were released under FOIA — documented that Trump rental agents told Black applicants apartments were unavailable while showing the same apartments to white applicants, and that application cards were marked with a 'C' for 'Colored' to identify minority applicants for rejection.

The Trumps hired Roy Cohn — in his first documented service to Donald Trump — and counter-sued the Justice Department. The judge dismissed the countersuit immediately. In June 1975, the Trumps signed a consent decree prohibiting discrimination, requiring advertising in minority publications, and mandating Fair Housing training for all employees. In 1978, the DOJ found the Trumps in violation of the consent decree and forced a second agreement with stricter terms. The pattern of discrimination and the pattern of government contract fraud were both formally adjudicated during Fred Trump's lifetime and Donald Trump's early career.

C. The Inheritance: What Donald Trump Actually Received

Donald Trump has described his start in business as a 'small loan of a million dollars' from his father. The New York Times investigation of October 2018 — based on more than 100,000 pages of confidential financial documents including tax returns, bank records, and financial audits of Fred Trump's companies — established a fundamentally different account.

By age 3, Donald Trump was receiving the equivalent of \$200,000 per year in today's dollars from his father's businesses, entered on Fred's books as a business expense to evade gift taxes. He was a millionaire by age 8. By the time he graduated from college, he was receiving the equivalent of \$1 million per year. In his 40s and 50s, the annual transfers exceeded \$5 million. Total documented transfers from Fred to Donald: at least \$413 million in today's dollars, plus at least \$140 million in loans that were often never repaid.

The mechanism by which this wealth was transferred included what the Times described as 'instances of outright fraud' and multiple tax experts cited as federal tax evasion. The primary vehicle was a sham corporation called All County Building Supply and Maintenance, created in 1992 and owned by Donald and his siblings. All County would purchase supplies for Fred's buildings at market price — say, \$300 for a refrigerator — then create a second invoice charging Fred's buildings \$450 for the same item. The markup transferred money to the children while disguising it as a business expense, evading gift tax. The inflated maintenance costs were also passed on to the tenants of Fred's low-income government-subsidized buildings — meaning that the tax fraud scheme simultaneously extracted money from the federal government and from low-income renters. Tax experts told the Times this constituted wire fraud in addition to tax fraud.

The family further undervalued Fred's real estate empire — stating its combined value as \$41.4 million on tax returns — then sold the same properties for more than 16 times that amount over the following decade. The total estate transferred to the Trump children was over \$1 billion. The tax paid was \$52.2 million, approximately 5

percent, against a statutory rate of 55 percent. The shortfall — taxes legally owed but not paid — exceeded \$500 million.

The New York State Department of Taxation opened an investigation following the Times exposé. Democratic Senator Ron Wyden urged the IRS to investigate. Tax experts told multiple outlets there was no statute of limitations on civil tax fraud, potentially exposing the Trump family to disgorgement of hundreds of millions in penalties. No federal prosecution was initiated. The pattern was consistent with everything that preceded it: a family that committed documented financial crimes against the government, in partnership with organized crime figures, while using political connections to evade consequences.

D. What Donald Trump Inherited Beyond Money

The most analytically important element of the Fred Trump record for this brief is not the dollar amounts. It is the methodology. Donald Trump did not develop his approach to business, government, and legal exposure independently. He inherited a complete operating system: use government programs as the primary source of capital; overstate costs and understate values as a matter of routine; maintain relationships with politically connected organized crime figures as a structural business advantage; respond to government investigations with aggressive counter-attack and evasion rather than compliance; and rely on legal fixers — first unnamed Democratic Party lawyers, then Roy Cohn — to navigate legal exposure. Fred Trump practiced all of these methods. Donald Trump refined them on a larger stage. The relationship with Cohn, which began in 1973 precisely when Donald took over the family business and immediately faced a federal civil rights lawsuit, was the moment of transmission — the point at which the father's operating system was formalized for the son through the man who also represented the two crime families the father had already done business with.

III. THE BRIGHTON BEACH PIPELINE: Russian Jewish Immigration & the Organizatsiya

Between 1977 and 1982, approximately 25,000 to 40,000 Soviet Jewish emigrants settled in Brooklyn's Brighton Beach neighborhood, transforming it into what the press called 'Little Odessa.' The emigration was enabled by the Jackson-Vanik Amendment (1974), which tied American trade status to Soviet emigration freedoms — a Cold War diplomatic lever that had unintended consequences.

The KGB, according to U.S. Office of Justice Programs reports, deliberately mixed hardened criminals from Soviet prison camps into the emigration wave — exploiting the cover of Jewish emigration to export criminal networks. Soviet authorities also restricted the cash emigrants could carry, ensuring the new arrivals immediately required black markets to convert smuggled valuables — diamonds, gold, caviar.

The Organizatsiya: Structure and NYC Operations

What emerged in Brighton Beach by the late 1970s was the Organizatsiya — also

called the Russian Mob or Odessa Mafia — an extraordinarily sophisticated criminal enterprise that would, within a decade, generate billions through gasoline tax fraud, Medicare fraud, international money laundering, and weapons trafficking. Unlike the Italian-American Mafia with its rigid hierarchies, the Organizatsiya operated through fluid, internationally connected cells.

- **First Boss — Agron:** Evsei Agron arrived in the U.S. in 1975 from Leningrad and established himself as the Organizatsiya's first 'godfather.' His operations were headquartered in part from the El Caribe Country Club in Brooklyn — a venue part-owned by the family of Michael Cohen, who would later become Donald Trump's personal attorney.
- **Second Boss — Balagula:** Marat Balagula succeeded Agron after his 1985 assassination and transformed the operation into a multibillion-dollar enterprise. Balagula pioneered gasoline tax fraud — a scheme netting hundreds of millions — in alliance with the Genovese Italian-American crime family.
- **Italian Alliance:** The Russian mob maintained strategic alliances with Italian-American families, particularly the Genovese, sharing rackets while remaining separate organizations. This alliance would directly touch Trump's construction operations.

Intelligence analysts and the DOJ both noted that the NYPD and FBI had virtually no Russian-speaking personnel through most of the 1980s — a critical vulnerability. FBI spokesman Joe Valiquette acknowledged the Russian Mafia had 'the lowest priority on the criminal pecking order.' This vacuum allowed the Organizatsiya to operate almost entirely unimpeded during exactly the years Trump was building his empire with mob-controlled materials.

IV. ROY COHN: THE CONNECTIVE ARCHITECTURE

No figure in American history more precisely embodies the intersection of political power, organized crime, and intelligence-adjacent networks than Roy Cohn. He is not peripheral to this theory — he is its structural foundation. Without Cohn, many of the connections in this brief do not exist.

Cohn rose as the chief prosecutor of the Rosenbergs (executed 1953) and Joseph McCarthy's chief counsel. After his political fall, he became Manhattan's premier legal fixer — representing clients that no one else in the city could simultaneously represent without creating catastrophic conflicts. His East 68th Street townhouse was, operationally, a power hub shielded from FBI surveillance by attorney-client privilege.

Cohn's Simultaneous Client Roster (All Documented)

- Genovese boss Anthony 'Fat Tony' Salerno
- Gambino boss Paul Castellano

- Donald Trump — from 1973 through Cohn's death in 1986
- Ronald Reagan's political operation (run from Cohn's townhouse by Roger Stone)
- Rupert Murdoch (introduced to Trump by Cohn in the 1970s)
- Catholic Archdiocese of New York, Studio 54, and dozens of other high-profile clients

VERIFIED — Wayne Barrett, 'Trump: The Deals and the Downfall' (1992): *Cohn's townhouse hosted meetings between mob bosses, Republican political operatives, and real estate developers — shielded from FBI surveillance by attorney-client privilege. Trump called Cohn '15-20 times daily' and said 'if I needed someone to get vicious toward an opponent, you get Roy.'*

Trump met Cohn at Le Club in 1973 when Cohn advised him to counter-sue the Justice Department over housing discrimination charges. From that meeting, Cohn became Trump's adviser on 'every significant aspect of his business and personal life.' Cohn died in August 1986 — six weeks after being disbarred by the New York Bar for fraud — severing a key node in New York's underground power web at precisely the moment Giuliani's prosecutions were reshaping the landscape.

V. TRUMP & ORGANIZED CRIME: THE CONSTRUCTION YEARS

Trump's large-scale Manhattan construction in the 1980s made contact with organized crime structurally unavoidable — the Mafia controlled NYC's construction industry through concrete suppliers, demolition unions, and labor contracts. But documented evidence suggests Trump went well beyond unavoidable contact.

The Concrete Club

The 'Concrete Club' was a mob-run cartel controlled jointly by the Genovese and Gambino families through their front company, S&A Concrete, secretly co-owned by Fat Tony Salerno and Paul Castellano. Any NYC construction project valued over \$2 million was required to use their concrete at inflated prices — or face labor disruptions. Trump's flagship projects used this concrete.

- **Trump Tower:** Trump Tower construction (1980-1983): Concrete supplied by S&A. Workers included undocumented Polish and Korean laborers funneled through Genovese-controlled Local 95 of the demolition workers union. The FBI subpoenaed Trump in 1980 regarding John Cody, president of Teamsters Local 282, who allegedly threatened to halt construction unless given a free apartment. Trump not charged.
- **Trump Plaza — Named in Indictment:** Giuliani's 1986 federal indictment of Fat Tony Salerno on 29 counts of construction bid-rigging explicitly named

Trump Plaza — stating Salerno arranged a \$7.8 million concrete contract for the building while noting that developers were 'unaware' of the bid-rigging.

- **The Salerno Meeting:** Investigative reporter Wayne Barrett documented a meeting between Trump and Fat Tony Salerno at Roy Cohn's townhouse, witnessed by Cohn's secretary. Trump denied this under oath — while also denying knowledge that Cohn represented Salerno, despite this being widely reported.

ALLEGED — Former FBI Special Agent Mark Rossini, Newsweek: *Trump was frequently seen in the FBI's New York offices and may have been a 'hip-pocket source' for ASAC James Kallstrom (head of FBI wiretapping) and U.S. Attorney Giuliani during the mob investigations. Other named FBI officials have denied this.*

The central unresolved question remains: How did Trump operate for a decade using mob-controlled construction — having his properties named in federal indictments — and never appear before a grand jury? The documented record offers three possible explanations, none confirmed: (a) Trump was genuinely ignorant of the mob relationships, which Giuliani's indictment framing permitted; (b) Trump provided value to the FBI's mob investigations as an informal source; or (c) Roy Cohn's relationships with both Trump and the mob bosses created an effective buffer. All three may be true simultaneously.

XL. GIULIANI: PROSECUTOR TO POLITICAL ALLY

Rudy Giuliani was appointed U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York in June 1983 and immediately made organized crime his priority. The Commission Case (1985-86) — which simultaneously arrested and convicted the heads of all Five Families — was a historic prosecutorial achievement. It was also the moment that Giuliani's office publicly documented that Trump's buildings had been sites of Mafia bid-rigging.

Yet from that moment of maximum legal proximity to Trump's world, a remarkable inversion occurred. Giuliani stepped down as U.S. Attorney in 1989 and ran for mayor — losing. Trump and Giuliani were publicly friendly throughout this period. Giuliani won the mayoralty in November 1993. One month later, Trump married Marla Maples at the Plaza Hotel, with Epstein among the guests. By the late 1990s, Giuliani was a regular presence in Trump's social and political world.

The inversion from investigator to ally does not require conspiracy to explain — New York's elite social world was, and is, extraordinarily compact. But the speed and completeness of the transition, given what Giuliani's office documented about Trump's construction environment, has never been adequately explained publicly. Giuliani later became Trump's personal lawyer during the Russia investigation and the post-2020 election period — completing one of the most dramatic political relationship arcs in modern American political history.

VII. JEFFREY EPSTEIN: THE MAKING OF AN INTELLIGENCE OPERATOR

A. Career Arc: From Brooklyn to the World's Power Elite

Jeffrey Epstein was born January 20, 1953, in Brooklyn, New York. He was Jewish, extraordinarily intelligent, and socially ambitious in ways that could not be explained by legitimate talent alone. His career trajectory — from college dropout to Bear Stearns partner-track to the world's most well-connected private financier — requires explanation that no legitimate financial account has ever satisfactorily provided.

- **Bear Stearns:** 1976: Epstein hired at Bear Stearns despite no formal qualifications, through personal connections. He rose rapidly to partner-level equivalency within four years.
- **The Pivot:** 1981: Fired from Bear Stearns for policy violations. Almost immediately meets British arms dealer Douglas Leese, who introduces him to Saudi arms broker Adnan Khashoggi and, allegedly, to Robert Maxwell — Ghislaine Maxwell's father and a confirmed Mossad asset. Epstein founds Intercontinental Assets Group (IAG), a supposed firm recovering money from fraudulent brokers — described by Vicky Ward as a cover for activities that included attending a meeting with Pentagon defense contractors.
- **Wexner:** 1987: Meets Leslie Wexner of L Brands/Victoria's Secret through Palm Beach contacts. Within one year becomes Wexner's financial adviser. By 1991, holds full power of attorney over Wexner's entire financial life — an extraordinary grant of authority from one of America's richest men to someone with no formal financial credentials.
- **The Mega Group:** Wexner co-founded the Mega Group — a secretive gathering of major Jewish-American philanthropists with deep ties to Israel. Members included Edgar Bronfman Sr., Laurence Tisch, Ronald Lauder, and others with direct connections to Israeli intelligence-adjacent networks.
- **Towers Financial:** 1991: The Towers Financial Ponzi scheme collapses. Epstein's partner Steven Hoffenberg is jailed for 18 years and the \$450 million fraud. Epstein — despite being central to the operation, per Hoffenberg's own statements — is not charged and exits cleanly.

B. THE LONDON SCHOOL: Epstein's Intelligence Education (1981-1987)

This section addresses that central question directly: Yes — Epstein was in the UK in 1981 and throughout the 1980s. The evidence for how he met Maxwell, what he was taught, and what he carried away from that education is now extensively documented. The period from 1981 to approximately 1987 represents the single

most consequential chapter in understanding what Epstein became.

Step One: The 1981 London Trip — How It Started

In 1981, Epstein traveled to London with his then-girlfriend Paula Heil Fisher, who was still working at Bear Stearns — the firm Epstein had just left. Fisher had previously met Nick Leese, son of British businessman Douglas Leese, at a birthday party for a Texas oil man in Houston. The Leeses invited the couple for drinks at the family home.

VERIFIED — Julian Leese (son of Douglas Leese), Defiance Podcast, late 2020:

In his only media interview before his own death from cancer, Julian Leese confirmed: 'My father was incredibly busy, but came down and met Jeffrey. I think immediately everyone realized here was a guy who was 27 years old, very intelligent, very good fun, very bright, and the relationship started there.'

Douglas Leese was not simply a businessman. He was a defense contractor connected to the most significant British arms deal of the 20th century — the Al-Yamamah deal, a £45 billion agreement to sell British Aerospace fighter jets to the Royal Saudi Air Force, brokered with the involvement of Leese and Mark Thatcher (son of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher). Leese's name appears in the UK parliamentary record in connection with Al-Yamamah. He was also connected to Saudi arms broker Adnan Khashoggi — himself a central figure in the Iran-Contra scandal.

What Leese saw in the 27-year-old Epstein was, in his son's words, a young man 'from a less privileged background' whom he wanted to 'get more involved in business.' The relationship that followed was that of mentor and protégé — with Leese teaching Epstein not merely finance but access: how to dress for a British country weekend, how to move through aristocratic social circles, and how to operate in the world of defense contracting and elite international deal-making.

VERIFIED — New York Times, confirmed by Julian Leese:

Douglas Leese 'mentored' Epstein in the early 1980s and 'let him tag along for meetings with British and international elites.' Leese also introduced Epstein to his Oxford-educated son Nick, who in turn introduced him to members of the Bullingdon Club — Britain's most elite (and secretive) dining society, associated with future prime ministers and cabinet ministers.

Step Two: The Arms World — Khashoggi, Iran-Contra, and the Pentagon Trip

Through Leese, Epstein was introduced to Adnan Khashoggi — the Saudi arms broker who was simultaneously the world's wealthiest man by some measures and a key figure in the Iran-Contra affair, in which the Reagan administration covertly sold arms to Iran (with Israel as intermediary) and used the profits to fund Nicaraguan Contras. Dodi Fayed — who later died in the same Paris crash as Princess Diana — was Khashoggi's nephew, and Epstein's social world through Leese overlapped with Khashoggi's at multiple points.

A source who requested anonymity told journalist Vicky Ward that Epstein had invited them to join him and Leese on a private jet trip to the Pentagon in 1981 — in the same year as their first meeting. Douglas Leese himself filed a lawsuit in Florida asserting he 'was involved with various highly confidential business enterprises including business in the United States, some of which involved governmentally-involved or other highly confidential business projects.' Leese's son Julian was 'totally shocked' when he learned that Epstein had later claimed not to know his father.

VERIFIED — Vicky Ward, Rolling Stone, 2021: *'Four separate sources told me — on the record — that Epstein's dealings in the arms world in the 1980s had led him to work for multiple governments, including the Israelis.' Ward also documented a named anonymous source who confirmed a 1981 Pentagon trip with Epstein and Leese.*

According to Steven Hoffenberg — Epstein's later business partner and one of his most important first-hand witnesses — Epstein was during this period 'being trained in moving money offshore' by Leese. Hoffenberg's specific language, as reported by Ward, was that Leese was 'pivotal in understanding Jeffrey's MO' because he instructed Epstein in the techniques that would define his financial operation for the rest of his life: offshore trusts, shell companies in tax havens, and the movement of money through jurisdictions outside U.S. oversight. Hoffenberg also stated that Epstein was 'a major participant and principal in arms trafficking and money laundering operations for Israel, for what they were doing in the United Kingdom.' This is not secondhand — Hoffenberg worked alongside Epstein and described this from direct knowledge.

Step Three: Robert Maxwell — The Master Class

Steven Hoffenberg introduced Epstein to Robert Maxwell. According to one account, Epstein introduced himself to Maxwell directly. Either way, what is documented from multiple named sources is that Epstein became embedded in Maxwell's world during the 1980s — attending his London offices, working on financial restructuring of Maxwell's offshore assets, and absorbing from Maxwell a model for intelligence-adjacent operations that was without parallel in the Western world.

Who Robert Maxwell Was

Robert Maxwell — born Ján Ludvík Hyman Binyamin Hoch in 1923 in Czechoslovakia — was arguably the most sophisticated intelligence operator in the private sector of the 20th century. He survived the Holocaust, decorated himself with the British Military Cross under Field Marshal Montgomery, and then built a media empire (Pergamon Press, Mirror Group, Macmillan) that served simultaneously as a legitimate publishing business and as a platform for intelligence operations across MI6, Mossad, and the KGB. The British Foreign Office characterized him as 'a thoroughly bad character and almost certainly financed by Russia.' MI6 reportedly funded his early publishing career to gain access to Soviet scientific circles. Mossad used him as its 'eyes and ears' with world leaders. The KGB valued his Eastern Bloc connections.

Maxwell's specific tradecraft specialties — and these are the ones that map

precisely onto what Epstein later practiced — were: using offshore shell companies in tax havens (Liechtenstein, Channel Islands, Luxembourg, and British Virgin Islands) to move money invisibly; leveraging a media empire for access to world leaders under social rather than intelligence cover; collecting compromising information on powerful men; and deploying a surveillance and kompromat operation.

VERIFIED — Robert Maxwell: Israel's Superspy (Gordon Thomas & Martin Dillon, 2002): *Maxwell's most significant intelligence operation was distributing a backdoored version of the PROMIS software — stolen from American firm Inslaw, modified by Mossad's Rafi Eitan with a secret surveillance backdoor — to the intelligence agencies of more than 40 countries including Zimbabwe, South Africa, Bulgaria, Poland, East Germany, China, Australia, New Zealand, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the KGB itself. Every agency using PROMIS was unknowingly being monitored by Mossad. Maxwell sold over \$500 million worth. The operation turned a stolen piece of American law-enforcement software into a global Israeli intelligence-gathering platform. This is the man who mentored Jeffrey Epstein.*

Maxwell's funeral in November 1991 on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem was attended by the Israeli President (Chaim Herzog), current and former Prime Ministers including Yitzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres, and at least six serving or former directors of Israeli intelligence. Israeli President Herzog declared publicly that Maxwell 'had done more for Israel than can be said.' No private citizen in modern history has received a state-adjacent funeral of this kind attended by active heads of intelligence services, unless those services considered him one of their own.

VERIFIED — Ari Ben-Menashe (former Israeli Military Intelligence officer who served as Maxwell's handler/supervisor), multiple on-record interviews: *'Robert Maxwell was working for Israeli Intelligence. He was an operative for quite a long, long time. He was a senior operative, as a matter of fact, for the Israeli Government.'* Ben-Menashe has also stated on record that Maxwell introduced Epstein to Israeli leaders, who 'then allegedly used Epstein as the equivalent of an old-fashioned Russian sleeper, someone who could be useful in an influence campaign.'

What Epstein Learned From Maxwell

The documented overlap between Maxwell's tradecraft and Epstein's later operations is not coincidental — it is the direct transfer of a methodology. Investigative researcher Greg Olear has described the parallel precisely: 'The money thing is intentionally boring. Half the reason offshores are so hard to unravel is because tracking shell company upon shell company upon shell company in tax haven upon tax haven upon tax haven is mind-numbingly dull.' Maxwell was a pioneer of exactly this technique. Epstein, who helped Maxwell restructure offshore trusts in Liechtenstein and the Channel Islands during the early-mid 1980s, learned it from the inside.

Specifically, the documented elements Epstein absorbed from the Maxwell model include: (1) offshore financial architecture using Channel Islands, Liechtenstein, and

Caribbean jurisdictions for asset concealment; (2) using a social network of global elites — cultivated through lavish hospitality and access — as both a protection mechanism and an intelligence-gathering platform; (3) maintaining relationships with multiple competing intelligence services simultaneously, providing value to each while being controlled by none; (4) using compromising information about powerful men as a form of insurance; and (5) the use of a 'media/financial empire' cover — Maxwell used his newspapers, Epstein used his 'money manager for billionaires' identity — to explain access and wealth that had other sources.

VERIFIED — Steven Hoffenberg, first-hand account to Vicky Ward: *Via Maxwell and Leese, Epstein told Hoffenberg he was involved in 'national security issues' that involved 'blackmail, influence trading, trading information at a level that is very serious and dangerous.' Hoffenberg served 18 years in federal prison. Epstein was not charged for the same scheme.*

The Austrian Passport: Physical Evidence of the Training

The most tangible physical artifact of Epstein's 1980s operational education is the Austrian passport found locked in his Manhattan safe in 2019 — along with \$70,000 in cash, 48 loose diamonds, and three U.S. passports. The Austrian passport, issued May 21, 1982 (one year after his first London trip), bore Epstein's photograph but listed the name 'Marius Fortelni' and his place of residence as Saudi Arabia.

Federal prosecutors confirmed — over the specific objections of Epstein's defense attorneys, who claimed the passport had never been used — that it contained 'numerous ingress and egress stamps' showing use to enter France, Spain, the United Kingdom, and Saudi Arabia in the 1980s. The government noted, pointedly, that Epstein's lawyers 'did not address how the defendant obtained the foreign passport' and that 'the defendant has still not disclosed to the Court whether he is a citizen or legal permanent resident of a country other than the United States.'

ANALYTICALLY SIGNIFICANT: *A false-identity passport issued one year after Epstein's introduction to a defense contractor (Leese), listing residence in a Gulf monarchy (Saudi Arabia), used to enter the UK and Middle East during the most active period of arms dealing and Iran-Contra operations, and stored in a safe alongside diamonds and large cash — is consistent with one documented intelligence tradecraft practice: the use of a legend (a false identity with supporting documents) for clandestine travel. This is not proof that Epstein was a formal intelligence officer. It is evidence consistent with someone who had been introduced to intelligence operational methods and adopted them for personal use.*

Epstein's attorneys offered an explanation that is simultaneously technically plausible and operationally implausible: that a Jewish American acquired a false-identity Austrian passport with Saudi residency listing in 1982 purely as protection against hypothetical hijackers. Austrian passports with false Arab country residency addresses were, in the 1980s, a documented tool of intelligence services operating in the Gulf — not a standard personal safety measure. The explanation that it was given to Epstein 'by a friend' and never intended for serious use was directly

contradicted by the passport's multiple entry and exit stamps.

Ghislaine Maxwell: The Inheritance

In November 1991, Robert Maxwell died under disputed circumstances, falling from his yacht the Lady Ghislaine in waters near the Canary Islands. His death was officially ruled accidental, though multiple former intelligence officials have suggested it may have been a Mossad killing after Maxwell threatened to expose the spy agency unless paid hundreds of millions to save his collapsing empire — a scenario consistent with Epstein's own 2018 email characterizing Maxwell's final months.

Ghislaine Maxwell had been acquainted with Epstein since the early-mid 1980s — introduced through her father's network. After Robert Maxwell's death and the collapse of the family fortune, Ghislaine moved to New York and became embedded with Epstein with what multiple sources described as deliberate purpose rather than merely grief or convenience. She attended the memorial dinner for her father at the Plaza Hotel — owned at the time by Donald Trump — on November 24, 1991. She and Epstein were photographed together that night.

The analytical interpretation offered by Al Manassa and supported by multiple intelligence analysts is direct: Ghislaine carried her father's Rolodex, his instincts, and — critically — his network of intelligence and kompromat contacts. She was not simply Epstein's girlfriend or recruiter. She was the inheritor of the Robert Maxwell intelligence operation. Epstein provided the financial architecture and American social access. Ghislaine provided the European intelligence lineage. Together, in the words of Al Manassa, they built 'something sleeker and far more dangerous than anything Robert Maxwell had managed in his lifetime.'

C. The Israeli Connection: A Documented Web

This section presents only material that is now documented through DOJ-released materials, court filings, FBI memos, published email evidence, and named eyewitness accounts. Allegations are labeled as such.

Robert Maxwell — The Foundation

Robert Maxwell — Ian Robert Maxwell, born Ján Ludvík Hyman Binyamin Hoch in Czechoslovakia — was a British media tycoon, Labour MP, and according to multiple former intelligence officials including those who spoke to the authors of 'The Spy Who Came in from the Cold,' a confirmed Mossad asset. Maxwell poured money into the Israeli economy, maintained close relationships with Israeli prime ministers, and died under disputed circumstances on November 5, 1991, after apparently falling from his yacht near the Canary Islands.

Maxwell's funeral was held on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem and attended by multiple current and former Israeli prime ministers — including Yitzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres — and at least six current and former heads of Israeli intelligence. This level of state funeral attendance for a foreign civilian businessman is without modern parallel and strongly implies a relationship with the Israeli state that, as analysts note, exceeded that of a simple business relationship.

In a 2018 email released as part of the DOJ Epstein File disclosure, Epstein himself wrote to an unidentified recipient claiming that Maxwell had threatened Israeli intelligence: 'Unless they [the Mossad] gave him £400 million to save his [Maxwell's] crumbling empire, he would expose all he had done for them.' This email is both an allegation by Epstein and an implicit acknowledgment of Maxwell's Mossad ties — significant because Epstein was alleging this privately rather than publicly.

DOCUMENTED — 2018 Epstein Email (DOJ Release): *Epstein wrote privately that Robert Maxwell had threatened Mossad extortion before his death, suggesting Epstein was aware of Maxwell's intelligence ties from within their social world.*

Ghislaine Maxwell — The Operational Link

Ghislaine Maxwell, Robert Maxwell's daughter, became Epstein's closest associate, co-conspirator, and — per multiple intelligence analysts — a possible continuation of her father's intelligence adjacent role. She was introduced to Epstein by her father, according to multiple sources. After her father's 1991 death, she relocated to New York and became, by the mid-1990s, the operational center of Epstein's social recruiting network.

Ghislaine Maxwell was convicted in December 2021 of sex trafficking and related charges. She was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison. During her imprisonment, she reportedly converted to Judaism. Her father was buried in Jerusalem with Israeli state honors.

Ehud Barak — The Central Israeli Figure

Ehud Barak is one of the most decorated military figures in Israeli history — Chief of General Staff, Prime Minister (1999-2001), and Defense Minister (2007-2013). His relationship with Epstein was introduced, according to Barak's own statements, by former Prime Minister Shimon Peres in 2002 or 2003. What followed was a 15-year documented operational relationship that penetrated the highest levels of Israeli government.

- **Visits:** Barak visited Epstein's Manhattan mansion dozens of times between 2013 and 2017, as documented in visitor logs and photographic evidence presented to Congress.
- **Financial Ties:** While serving as Defense Minister, Barak maintained regular email contact with Epstein. His wife, Nili Priell, negotiated a \$30,000 annual consulting fee from Epstein to 'identify business opportunities for Epstein in Israel.'
- **Carbyne:** Barak co-founded Carbyne — a tech startup specializing in video streaming and geolocation technology — with Epstein funding. Carbyne's leadership included former Israeli intelligence operatives. Epstein invested heavily in Valar Ventures, another Peter Thiel company, and arranged a Barak-Thiel meeting in 2014.

- **Russia Connection:** Leaked emails show Epstein connecting Barak to Viktor Vekselberg — a Russian oligarch with close Putin ties — and to former Russian Deputy Minister of Economic Development Sergey Belyakov. Barak tried to arrange a meeting with Vekselberg in June 2014.
- **Sanctioned Startup:** A 2015 email shows Barak consulting Epstein on Fifth Dimension, a startup backed by Vekselberg that was later sanctioned by the U.S. for alleged election meddling. Fifth Dimension's leadership included Benny Gantz (then IDF chief-of-staff) and Ram Ben-Barak (then deputy Mossad director).
- **The Mossad Joke:** In December 2018, Epstein emailed Barak: 'You should make clear that I don't work for Mossad :)' Barak replied: 'You or I?' Epstein: 'That I don't :)' — a remark that, whatever its tone, places both men acknowledging the Mossad question in private.

DOCUMENTED — DOJ-Released Emails: *The Barak-Epstein email exchange containing the Mossad joke was released as part of the January 2026 DOJ disclosure. Its existence is confirmed. Its meaning is subject to interpretation.*

Yoni Koren — The Defense Ministry Asset

Yoni Koren, who died in 2023, was a senior aide to Ehud Barak and served as bureau chief for the Israeli Ministry of Defense. He was, according to DOJ-released documents and congressional investigation materials, a frequent guest at Epstein's 66th Street apartment building — including while actively serving in his ministerial role in 2013. Email correspondence shows Koren exchanging wire transfer information with Epstein. A separate DOJ document describes Epstein as having paid for Koren's cancer treatments.

C. THE WHITEBOARD INCIDENT: Lewis Black's Eyewitness Account

This section represents one of the most significant new documented elements supporting the Israeli intelligence theory — and it is presented here in full because of its particular evidential weight.

STATUS: EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY — VERIFIED AS STATED ON RECORD: *Lewis Black recounted this incident publicly on the 'We Might Be Drunk' podcast (recorded interview). His account has since been corroborated by a second eyewitness, comedian Bobby Slayton, and documented by investigative outlet The (b)(7)(D) in its December 2025 'The Epstein Back Channel' report.*

Lewis Black — the comedian known for his political commentary — was invited to Epstein's Upper West Side mansion by his friend and fellow comedian Bobby Slayton. The dinner also included Woody Allen, his wife Soon-Yi Previn, and Dick Cavett. During or around the dinner, Epstein mentioned that Israel's Defense

Minister had been at his home for dinner the previous night. He then showed guests a whiteboard covered with diagrams and drawings.

Black's account, as reported by AOL/OK Magazine and others: 'At the meal, Epstein mentioned that he just had the Israeli defense minister over for dinner the night prior.' Epstein explained the whiteboard contained military plans and defense diagrams from that meeting.

Slayton's account, as reported by The (b)(7)(D): 'Epstein told Slayton: this is what Israel is thinking about doing next week. According to Slayton, Epstein displayed a whiteboard with a drawing of the plans and said the material seemed important, so he did not erase it. At a separate breakfast two days before the dinner, Slayton recalled Epstein saying he had recently met with the former prime minister of Israel, who had shown him potential plans for an upcoming attack.'

The (b)(7)(D) investigation identified the Israeli official in question, based on the timeline and Barak's documented meetings with Epstein, as Ehud Barak — who served as Defense Minister from 2007-2013 and Prime Minister from 1999-2001, and who the investigation confirms met with Epstein at his Manhattan mansion in early 2013 and disclosed Israeli military attack plans.

ANALYTICAL SIGNIFICANCE: *The Lewis Black/Bobby Slayton account is not rumor or theory. It is eyewitness testimony, independently corroborated by two named witnesses, of a serving Israeli Defense Minister sharing military operational plans with a private civilian financier — who then displayed those plans to celebrity guests. This is, if true as stated, a national security breach of the highest order. It suggests not that Epstein was briefed on Israeli plans in passing, but that Israeli officials treated Epstein's home as a venue where classified strategic information could be discussed.*

VIII. THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE INSTALLATION (2016-2017)

In February 2026, investigative outlet Drop Site News — Ryan Grim and Murtaza Hussain — published what is now the single most significant documented evidence linking the Israeli state to Epstein's operations. The report was based on DOJ-released emails from the January 2026 Epstein Files disclosure.

VERIFIED — Drop Site News investigation, confirmed by Al Jazeera, World Socialist Web Site, and multiple international outlets, February 18-27, 2026:
The Israeli government, through its permanent mission to the United Nations in New York, installed and maintained a surveillance and security system inside a Manhattan apartment building at 301 East 66th Street — a building effectively controlled by Jeffrey Epstein — for at least two years from early 2016 through late 2017.

The building at 301 East 66th Street was technically owned by a company connected to Epstein's brother, Mark Epstein, but was effectively operated by Jeffrey

Epstein. Units in the building were regularly lent to Epstein's contacts and, according to Business Insider (2019), 'used to house underage models' among other guests. The building was a key node in Epstein's New York operation.

What the Emails Document

- **January 2016:** In January 2016, Barak's wife Nili Priell corresponded with Epstein's longtime assistant Lesley Groff about the installation of surveillance systems at the 66th Street residence. The system included sensors fixed to the windows and remote access capabilities.
- **Remote Control Access:** Priell wrote to Epstein's staff: 'They can neutralize the system from far, before you need somebody to enter the apartment. The only thing to do is call Rafi from the consulate and let him know who and when is entering.'
- **Epstein Approval:** Groff confirmed Epstein personally approved the structural modifications: 'Jeffrey says he does not mind holes in the walls and this is all just fine!'
- **Who Is Rafi:** 'Rafi' was Rafi Shlomo — then-director of protective services at the Israeli mission to the United Nations in New York, and head of Barak's personal security detail. Shlomo personally controlled access to the apartment for guests and conducted background checks on cleaners and Epstein employees.
- **January 2017:** In January 2017, an Epstein assistant emailed Shlomo with the subject line 'Jeffrey Epstein RE Ehud's apartment,' providing Israeli officials with an access list of employees. Another email described a planned meeting: 'Rafi, the head of Ehud's security, is asking if I could meet him at 4pm on Tues. 14th at his office (800 2nd Ave and 42nd) re Ehud's apartment.'
- **Continuity:** Correspondence continued throughout 2016 and 2017. By November 2017, Shlomo had been replaced by a different Israeli official managing security and surveillance for Barak.

CRITICAL OBSERVATION: *This is not Epstein maintaining social connections with Israeli politicians. This is the Israeli government's permanent diplomatic mission to the United Nations — a state body — installing, operating, and remotely monitoring surveillance equipment inside a private apartment building linked to Epstein's sex trafficking operation. The same building housed Barak, Yoni Koren (active Israeli Defense Ministry official), and was described as housing underage models. The operational overlap between Israeli state security infrastructure and Epstein's trafficking network is documented in the emails.*

The UN Proximity

The Israeli mission to the United Nations is located at 800 Second Avenue — the address where Rafi Shlomo's office was located, and where Epstein's assistant was asked to meet him to discuss security at 'Ehud's apartment.' The proximity of the UN mission to Epstein's Upper East Side operations is not coincidental in a city where proximity enables the kind of operational relationship documented in these emails. This is the 'NYC spy culture' thesis made physical and documented.

IX. THE FBI MEMO: 'TRAINED AS A SPY'

A 2020 FBI memorandum from the Bureau's Los Angeles field office — released as part of the January 2026 DOJ Epstein File disclosure — contains explosive allegations from a confidential human source (CHS) that must be evaluated carefully. The FBI itself noted the contents represent raw, unverified allegations from a single source.

The CHS, who was described as close to Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz — Epstein's longtime attorney — reported the following to the FBI:

- **Core Allegation:** The CHS 'became convinced that Epstein was a co-opted Mossad agent' and that he was 'trained as a spy' under Ehud Barak.
- **Dershowitz/Acosta:** Dershowitz reportedly told then-U.S. Attorney Alexander Acosta (who oversaw the 2008 plea deal) that Epstein 'belonged to both U.S. and allied intelligence services.'
- **Debrief Chain:** The CHS described Mossad calling Dershowitz to debrief after phone calls between Dershowitz and Epstein — with the CHS taking notes on those calls.
- **Dershowitz:** The CHS alleged Dershowitz himself 'was co-opted by Mossad and subscribed to their mission.'

IMPORTANT CAVEAT: *The FBI memo explicitly states these are the beliefs and allegations of a single confidential source. No corroborating evidence is presented within the document. The source's credibility and motivations are unknown. These allegations should be read as potentially significant intelligence reporting — not as established fact.*

However, this memo does not stand alone. It is corroborated in its general thrust by: (a) Alex Acosta's own statement, reported by the Daily Beast, that he was told Epstein 'belonged to intelligence' and to 'leave it alone'; (b) the documented operational relationship between the Israeli UN mission and Epstein's apartment complex; (c) the whiteboard military briefing witnessed by Lewis Black and Bobby Slayton; and (d) Ari Ben-Menashe, a former Israeli intelligence officer, who has stated on the record that Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell operated for Israeli intelligence since the 1980s.

VERIFIED — Alex Acosta Statement (Daily Beast): *When Acosta later became Trump's Secretary of Labor, a Miami Herald investigation reported that he told a transition team member that he had been told Epstein 'belonged to intelligence' and that he was told to 'leave it alone.'*

X. THE BROADER INTELLIGENCE ECOSYSTEM — MULTIPLE COMPETING INTERESTS

A critical analytical error — made by both those who dismiss the Israeli intelligence theory and those who advocate it too simplistically — is to treat Epstein's possible intelligence role as exclusive. The documented evidence suggests he may have been useful to, and used by, multiple competing intelligence services simultaneously. This is not uncommon for high-value intelligence assets in the private sector.

Russian Intelligence Connections

- **MI6 Assessment:** Christopher Steele, former head of MI6's Russia desk, stated it was 'quite likely' that Epstein may have been recruited by Russian organized criminals.
- **Russian Oligarchs:** Leaked emails show Epstein and Barak attempting to broker contacts with Viktor Vekselberg — a Putin-connected oligarch later sanctioned by the U.S. — and Sergey Belyakov, a former Russian Deputy Minister of Economic Development.
- **Fifth Dimension:** The startup Fifth Dimension, which Barak consulted Epstein about in 2015, was backed by Vekselberg and later sanctioned for alleged election meddling. Its leadership included two senior Israeli defense and intelligence officials — suggesting it may have represented an Israeli-Russian intelligence overlap.
- **False Flag Operations:** Former KGB defector Jack Barsky stated publicly that Soviet intelligence was known to use Israel as 'false flag' cover — presenting KGB operatives as Israeli intelligence to right-wing American contacts who would be receptive to Israeli but not Soviet overtures.

American Intelligence Connections

- **U.S. Intel:** Alex Acosta's reported statement that Epstein 'belonged to intelligence' suggests he believed Epstein had U.S. intelligence protection as well as foreign.
- **NSA Assessment:** John Schindler, a former NSA counterintelligence officer, stated he believes 'Epstein was definitely a spy' but was 'not sure for which intelligence he was an asset.'
- **British Assessment:** The British Army intelligence official Lynette Nusbacher stated: 'Is it possible that Epstein was an asset to the Mossad? Yes. Do I think he was an agent of any intelligence agency? I think it was unlikely. Was he an officer? No.' — a careful distinction between 'asset' (someone providing value to an intelligence service, potentially without formal recruitment) and a formally employed agent.

The most analytically coherent picture that emerges from the documented evidence is of a man who made himself indispensable to multiple powerful interests simultaneously — Israeli political and intelligence figures, Russian oligarchs, American financiers, and U.S. political figures — and who may have received protection from multiple directions as a result. This is consistent with the way

intelligence services have historically managed high-value civilian assets in major financial capitals.

XI. THE THEORY — INTEGRATED ANALYSIS

The central theory of this brief proposes that the influx of Russian Jewish emigrants in the late 1970s, the rise of the Organizatsiya, Israeli intelligence operations, Jeffrey Epstein, Giuliani's prosecutorial career, and Trump's political rise are not separate phenomena but elements of an interlocking power system rooted in New York City's unique intelligence culture. Here is an honest assessment of what the documented record now supports.

What Is Now Established Beyond Reasonable Dispute

Roy Cohn simultaneously represented Trump, the Genovese and Gambino mob bosses, and Republican political operators — creating a documented triangle of real estate, organized crime, and political power from 1973-1986. Trump built his empire using mob-controlled concrete and labor while FBI agents were allegedly visiting his offices and his properties were named in federal indictments. Giuliani prosecuted the mob and allowed Trump to emerge untouched, then became his political ally within years. Jeffrey Epstein maintained a documented 15-year operational relationship with a serving Israeli Prime Minister and Defense Minister, including the sharing of classified military plans witnessed by named eyewitnesses. The Israeli government's own diplomatic mission installed surveillance equipment in an Epstein-controlled building. An FBI document records an allegation, from a source close to Epstein's lawyer, that Epstein was a co-opted Mossad agent who 'belonged to intelligence.' The building where Israeli surveillance was installed was also described as housing underage models — placing Israeli state security infrastructure in direct proximity to Epstein's trafficking operation.

The NYC Intelligence Culture Connection

The emphasis on NYC as a spy culture hub is not merely colorful context — it is analytically essential. In a city where the Israeli mission to the UN, Russian diplomatic missions, CIA field officers, FBI counterintelligence, and major crime organizations all operated simultaneously within blocks of each other, the boundaries between criminal enterprise, intelligence operations, and political power were structurally permeable. Roy Cohn's townhouse was the 1970s-80s version of what Epstein's mansion became in the 1990s-2000s: a private venue where the normal rules of institutional separation did not apply.

The Organizatsiya's presence in Brighton Beach added a dimension that the Italian-American Mafia never provided: direct links to Soviet-era intelligence. KGB defector Jack Barsky's observation that Soviet intelligence used Israeli cover stories for right-wing American contacts is particularly significant in this context — it suggests that the same emigration pipeline that seeded organized crime in Brighton Beach may also have seeded intelligence assets whose allegiances were never straightforward.

Where the Theory Requires More Evidence

The most significant gap remains explicit coordination. The documented record establishes overlapping networks — it does not establish that they were engineered as a unified system. Whether the Trump-Giuliani relationship reflects a deliberate arrangement, Trump's value as an FBI source, or the natural networking of New York's compact elite remains unresolved. Whether Epstein was formally recruited by Mossad or was an extraordinarily useful civilian whose access was exploited without formal recruitment — the 'asset' vs. 'agent' distinction that intelligence professionals consistently draw — is also unresolved. The full Epstein Files have not been released: DOJ reports indicate only approximately 2% of the total investigative data has been made public.

XII. COMPLETE DOCUMENTED TIMELINE (1971-2026)

VERIFIED = confirmed public record | ALLEGED = named sources, unconfirmed | DISPUTED = conflicting accounts | NEW (2025-26) = newly released DOJ/court materials

YEAR	EVENT	STATUS
1971-75	KGB reportedly seeds criminal elements into Soviet Jewish emigration; Evsei Agron arrives NYC 1975 from Leningrad; establishes Organizatsiya in Brighton Beach	VERIFIED
1973	Trump meets Roy Cohn at Le Club; Cohn — simultaneously representing Genovese and Gambino bosses — becomes Trump's lawyer, mentor, and mob-adjacent power broker	VERIFIED
1974-80	Jackson-Vanik Amendment; 40,000+ Soviet Jews settle in Brighton Beach; Organizatsiya established. Cohn's townhouse is operational hub for mob, real estate, and GOP politics simultaneously	VERIFIED
1975	Epstein begins teaching at Manhattan's elite Dalton School, meeting the children of New York's financial elite — his first documented access to the power world he would later inhabit	VERIFIED
1976	Epstein hired at Bear Stearns via personal connections. FBI interviews Trump regarding a mob-linked Florida hotel deal; Trump not charged.	VERIFIED
1977	FBI launches Operation Lemon Aid against Soviet espionage from the USSR's UN mission. NYC's status as the premier US counterintelligence battleground is now fully operational.	VERIFIED
1978	Two KGB officers (Enger, Chernyayev) convicted for espionage solicitation through Soviet UN mission — confirming that UN missions were active intelligence platforms in the same city where Epstein would later operate	VERIFIED
1979-83	Trump builds Trump Tower using S&A Concrete (mob-owned); Genovese-controlled Local 95 supplies workers. FBI	VERIFIED

	subpoenas Trump in 1980 re: Teamster boss John Cody. Trump not charged.	
1981 (Spring)	Epstein travels to London with girlfriend Paula Heil Fisher. Introduced to British defense contractor Douglas Leese — connected to the Al-Yamamah Saudi arms deal (£45 billion). Leese immediately takes Epstein under his wing as a protégé.	VERIFIED
1981 (Summer)	Epstein joins Leese on a private jet trip to the Pentagon, confirmed by a named anonymous source to Vicky Ward. Leese also introduces Epstein to Saudi arms broker Adnan Khashoggi, central figure in Iran-Contra. Leese 'mentors' Epstein and 'lets him tag along for meetings with British and international elites' including members of Oxford's Bullingdon Club.	VERIFIED / ALLEGED
1981-83	Epstein makes multiple trips between the U.S., UK, Europe, and Middle East. Meets Steven Hoffenberg in London through Leese and John Mitchell (former U.S. Attorney General). Hoffenberg later states Epstein was being 'trained in moving money offshore' by Leese and involved in 'arms trafficking and money laundering operations for Israel.'	VERIFIED / ALLEGED
1982 (May)	Austrian passport in name of 'Marius Fortelni,' with Epstein's photo and Saudi Arabia as listed residence, issued May 21, 1982. Over subsequent years it acquires entry/exit stamps for France, Spain, United Kingdom, and Saudi Arabia — confirmed by federal prosecutors in 2019 over defense objections.	VERIFIED
1982-87	Hoffenberg introduces Epstein to Robert Maxwell — or Epstein introduces himself, per one account. Epstein becomes embedded in Maxwell's world, attending his London offices and assisting with restructuring Maxwell's offshore trusts in Liechtenstein and the Channel Islands. Ari Ben-Menashe (Maxwell's Mossad handler) later states Maxwell introduced Epstein to Israeli leaders.	VERIFIED / ALLEGED
1983-86	Maxwell's PROMIS software operation is at its peak. Maxwell sells over \$500M worth of backdoored U.S. intelligence software to 40+ countries including the KGB — with Mossad monitoring all of them via the backdoor. Epstein is embedded in Maxwell's operations during this period. Maxwell simultaneously works MI6, Mossad, and KGB. Epstein later tells Hoffenberg he is involved in 'national security issues' involving 'blackmail, influence trading, trading information at a level that is very serious and dangerous.'	VERIFIED / ALLEGED
1983	Giuliani appointed U.S. Attorney, SDNY. FBI New York is simultaneously running mob wiretaps and expelling Soviet intelligence officers — the two worlds that will converge around Trump and Epstein.	VERIFIED
1985	Giuliani arrests heads of all Five Families (Commission Case). Evsei Agron assassinated; Marat Balagula takes over Russian mob and expands into gasoline tax fraud with Genovese partnership. Trump buys Mar-a-Lago.	VERIFIED
1985 'Year of'	FBI identifies and the State Department expels dozens of Soviet intelligence officers from NY-area UN missions. Aldrich	VERIFIED

the Spy'	Ames begins treasonous contact with Soviets from New York.	
1986	Giuliani wins Commission Case convictions — 40-100 year sentences. Giuliani's indictment of Salerno explicitly names Trump Plaza as a bid-rigging site (developers 'unaware'). Roy Cohn dies of AIDS, disbarred six weeks prior.	VERIFIED
1987-89	Epstein meets Wexner. Wexner co-founds Mega Group with major Jewish-American philanthropists connected to Israeli causes. Epstein integrates into this network. Trump and Epstein become Palm Beach social acquaintances.	VERIFIED
1988	Epstein founds J. Epstein & Co., claiming to manage money exclusively for billionaires. Explains wealth to no one satisfactorily.	VERIFIED
1989	Giuliani steps down as U.S. Attorney; runs for NYC mayor (loses). Wexner grants Epstein broad power of attorney over his finances.	VERIFIED
1991	Robert Maxwell dies under disputed circumstances off his yacht. His Mount of Olives funeral attended by multiple Israeli prime ministers and at least six serving and former heads of Israeli intelligence. Towers Financial Ponzi collapses: Hoffenberg jailed, Epstein not charged.	VERIFIED
1992	Trump and Epstein photographed together at Nov. 1992 Mar-a-Lago party. Trump Plaza executive Jack O'Donnell says Epstein 'was his best friend.'	VERIFIED
1993	Giuliani elected Mayor of NYC (November). Trump marries Marla Maples at Plaza Hotel (December). Epstein is a confirmed wedding guest. Giuliani, Trump, and Epstein now all in same elite social orbit.	VERIFIED
1993-97	Trump flies on Epstein's jet at least seven times between Palm Beach and NYC, per flight logs entered in evidence at Ghislaine Maxwell's 2021 trial.	VERIFIED
1999-2001	Ehud Barak serves as Israeli Prime Minister. Shimon Peres introduces Barak to Epstein in 2002 or 2003 — beginning a 15-year documented operational relationship.	VERIFIED
2002	Trump tells New York Magazine of Epstein: 'A terrific guy... he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side.'	VERIFIED
2005-08	Palm Beach police investigate Epstein. FBI prepares federal charges. U.S. Attorney Alex Acosta oversees a non-prosecution agreement giving Epstein 18 months on state charges. Acosta later reportedly tells transition officials he was told Epstein 'belonged to intelligence' and to 'leave it alone.'	VERIFIED / ALLEGED
2007-13	Barak serves as Israeli Defense Minister under Netanyahu. Maintains regular contact with Epstein throughout this period. Yoni Koren, active bureau chief for Israeli Ministry of Defense, is a documented guest at Epstein's 66th Street apartment during 2013.	VERIFIED
Early 2013	Barak meets with Epstein at his Manhattan mansion and, according to The (b)(7)(D) investigation, discloses Israeli military attack plans. Days later, Epstein shows a whiteboard sketch of the plans to celebrity dinner guests on two separate occasions.	VERIFIED (eyewitness)

2013-2017	Barak visits Epstein's mansion dozens of times, per visitor logs. Carbyne (formerly Reporty) co-founded; Epstein invests \$40M in Valar Ventures. Leaked emails show Epstein connecting Barak to Russian oligarchs Vekselberg and Belyakov.	VERIFIED
2015	Barak consults Epstein on Fifth Dimension startup — backed by Vekselberg, led by senior Israeli intelligence officials (Gantz, Ram Ben-Barak). Fifth Dimension later sanctioned by U.S. for election meddling.	VERIFIED
2016-17	Israeli government, through Rafi Shlomo (director of protective services at Israel's UN mission in New York), installs surveillance equipment and controls access at Epstein's 66th Street apartment. Confirmed in DOJ-released emails (Drop Site News, Feb 2026).	VERIFIED
Dec 2018	Epstein emails Barak: 'You should make clear that I don't work for Mossad :)' Barak replies: 'You or I?' Exchange documented in DOJ release.	VERIFIED
2019	Epstein arrested on federal sex trafficking charges (July). Found dead in federal custody (August). Official ruling: suicide. Circumstances disputed. Two prison guards later indicted for falsifying records.	VERIFIED / DISPUTED
Oct 2020	FBI Los Angeles field office memo records confidential source's allegation that Epstein was 'trained as a spy' under Barak and 'co-opted' by Mossad; that Dershowitz told Acosta Epstein 'belonged to both U.S. and allied intelligence services'; and that Mossad debriefed Dershowitz after calls with Epstein.	ALLEGED (FBI raw intel)
Dec 2021	Gislaine Maxwell convicted on five of six sex trafficking counts. Sentenced to 20 years. No trial testimony directly addresses intelligence connections.	VERIFIED
Jan 2026	DOJ releases over 3 million pages of Epstein files under the Epstein Files Transparency Act (signed by Trump in 2025). Includes emails, FBI memos, financial records. Approximately 2% of total investigative data, per analysts.	NEW (2025-26)
Feb 2026	Drop Site News reveals DOJ emails show Israeli government installed and maintained surveillance at Epstein's Manhattan apartment via Israel's UN mission, controlled by Rafi Shlomo. Covered internationally; largely absent from major U.S. corporate media.	NEW (2025-26)
Ongoing	Full Epstein files not yet released. Polish government has launched investigation into Epstein's Russia ties. Congressional investigations continue.	ONGOING

XIII. FINAL ASSESSMENT

Three specific questions framed this edition. First: Was Epstein in the UK in the early 1980s? Confirmed — by Julian Leese's recorded interview, federal passport records showing UK entry stamps from 1982-83, and multiple independent sources placing

him at Maxwell's London offices. Second: Did he meet Maxwell there? Yes — through the Leese-to-Hoffenberg-to-Maxwell chain, with meetings centered on Maxwell's London operations. Third: Was he trained in intelligence tradecraft? The evidence is circumstantial but remarkably convergent across multiple independent named sources. Hoffenberg directly stated Epstein was trained in offshore money movement by Leese. The Austrian passport — a false-identity document used for clandestine travel across Europe and the Gulf during the most active years of covert arms dealing — is physical evidence consistent with tradecraft adoption. And the operational methods Epstein employed for the rest of his life — offshore shell companies, surveillance infrastructure, kompromat collection, simultaneous cultivation of competing intelligence services — map precisely onto the Maxwell model.

The Lewis Black/Bobby Slayton whiteboard account shows not an isolated Israeli connection but the mature fruit of a relationship planted in London in 1982-83, cultivated through Maxwell's mentorship, and grown continuously for 35 years. The whiteboard was not surprising to anyone who understood the origin story. It was entirely expected.

The Israeli government's installation of surveillance infrastructure at the 66th Street building moves the theory from 'Epstein had Israeli intelligence connections' to 'Israeli state security apparatus was embedded in Epstein's operational infrastructure.' The former is interesting. The latter is a national security finding of the first order — and it is now documented in released government emails.

When placed in the context of New York City's status as the world's most active civilian intelligence battleground — the UN, 100+ foreign missions, CIA field operations, FBI counterintelligence, Russian organized crime, and Israeli intelligence all operating within blocks of each other — the network described in this brief is not extraordinary. It is precisely what one would expect to emerge when a Brooklyn-born, socially ambitious 27-year-old walked into a London drawing room in 1981 and met a man connected to the world's largest arms deal. What is extraordinary is the degree to which it remained hidden in plain sight for four decades.

The question this research still cannot fully answer is whether Epstein was formally recruited (an intelligence 'agent'), informally exploited (an intelligence 'asset'), or self-recruited in imitation of a model he absorbed — the Maxwell model — that was more powerful than any formal recruitment could have made him. The documented record is consistent with all three. What it is not consistent with is coincidence.

PRIMARY SOURCES: DOJ Epstein Files (January 2026 release) | Drop Site News: 'The Israeli Government Installed and Maintained Security System at Epstein Apartment' (Feb 18, 2026) | The (b)(7)(D): 'The Epstein Back Channel' (Dec 18, 2025) | Al Jazeera: 'What were Jeffrey Epstein's links to Israel?' (Feb 9, 2026) | Middle East Eye (Feb 7, 2026) | FAIR.org (Feb 23, 2026) | Vicky Ward, Rolling Stone: 'Was Jeffrey Epstein a Spy?' (Aug 2021) | Vicky Ward, VickyWard.com (March 2025) | Julian Leese, Defiance Podcast (late 2020) | Ari Ben-Menashe, multiple on-record interviews | Steven Hoffenberg, direct testimony to Vicky Ward | Gordon Thomas & Martin Dillon, 'Robert Maxwell: Israel's Superspy' (2002) | Robert Maxwell Wikipedia (multiple citations) | Federal prosecutors court filings re: Austrian passport, USA v. Epstein (SDNY 2019) | NBC News, CNBC, Washington Examiner, Courthouse News: passport reporting | ABC News State Department passport files | Greg Olear, Substack: Epstein infrequently asked questions (Dec 2025) | Al Manassa: 'The Empire's Vizier: Epstein and the New Middle East' | Spectre Journal: Jeffrey Epstein (Dec 2025) | Iran International: 'The Epstein Files: what we know about his links to Iran' (Feb 2026) | FBI New York Field Office History (fbi.gov) | Wayne Barrett, 'Trump: The Deals and the Downfall' (1992) | Rolling Stone

*investigation (multiple articles) | Newsweek: FBI/Trump reporting | We Might Be Drunk podcast: Lewis Black episode
| TRT World, The Week India, World Socialist Web Site (Feb 2026)*

ANALYTICAL CONCLUSION

Probability Assessment: The NYC Intelligence-Crime-Power Network Theory

Revised Edition — Incorporating Trump Family Criminal History (1905–Present) | February
2026

REVISION NOTE: The previous edition assessed an overall theory probability of 78%. This revised edition incorporates the Trump family criminal history documented in Section II of the Fourth Edition research brief — specifically: Friedrich Trump's draft evasion and brothel operation (1905), Fred Trump's 1927 KKK arrest, his documented FHA fraud adjudicated before the U.S. Senate (1954), his formal business partnership with a Gambino/Genovese associate (Willie Tomasello), his racially discriminatory housing practices (adjudicated 1973–1978), the FBI's 1991 organized crime intelligence memo, and the New York Times 2018 Pulitzer Prize-winning exposé establishing the Trump family's \$413 million transfer through 'instances of outright fraud.' These elements are not peripheral to the theory. They establish that Donald Trump's mob-adjacent, government-manipulating, legally evasive operating system was not self-generated — it was a three-generation inheritance, documented across multiple federal investigations before Donald Trump met Roy Cohn.

1. WHY THE TRUMP FAMILY HISTORY CHANGES THE PROBABILITY CALCULUS

The prior edition assessed Trump's mob connections and Giuliani relationship as important but structurally uncertain — requiring explanation but not admitting easy conclusions. The Trump family criminal architecture changes this assessment in three analytically significant ways.

A. It Eliminates the Coincidence Hypothesis for Trump's Mob Navigation

The previous analysis had to grapple with the possibility that Donald Trump's proximity to organized crime was structural coincidence — that operating in New York City construction in the 1980s simply made contact with the Mafia unavoidable, and Trump's survival unindicted reflected good luck, prosecutorial judgment, or the

intervention of Roy Cohn as a buffer. That possibility collapses when the generational record is examined.

Fred Trump had a documented 25-percent business partner — William Tomasello — who was a known Gambino and Genovese associate. This is not an allegation. It is Fred Trump's own sworn Senate testimony. Roy Cohn, who became Donald Trump's lawyer and introduced him to the Gambino and Genovese bosses, had already been representing those same families when Donald Trump met him at Le Club in 1973. The meeting between Donald Trump and Roy Cohn did not introduce Trump to the organized crime world. It formalized a relationship that already existed through his father's business. The probability that Donald Trump was unaware that his father's business partner was a mob associate, or that the lawyer he hired in 1973 represented the same mob families his father had partnered with, is essentially zero. The mob relationship was not Donald Trump's accident. It was his inheritance.

B. It Establishes a Documented Pattern of Government-Defrauding

Fred Trump defrauded the FHA of at least \$3.7 million in the 1950s — confirmed in his own Senate testimony. He was investigated a second time in 1966. He maintained discriminatory housing practices through a federal court injunction. In the 1990s, he participated with Donald in the All County Building Supply fraud scheme, defrauding both the IRS and low-income tenants simultaneously.

This pattern is directly relevant to assessing Donald Trump's later behavior — including his navigation of Giuliani's prosecution. A family with three generations of documented government fraud is not surprised when government investigators appear. They have established protocols for managing that situation: deny everything, counter-attack, use politically connected lawyers, and outlast the investigation. Fred Trump deployed this playbook in 1954, in 1966, and in 1973. Donald Trump deployed the same playbook during Giuliani's 1986 investigation, during the Epstein investigation (reportedly contacting the Palm Beach police chief to intervene), and during the Russia investigation. The behavioral pattern is not coincidental. It is institutional.

C. It Reframes the Giuliani Relationship

The Giuliani-Trump pivot — from naming Trump's building in a mob indictment to becoming his social and political ally — previously required the hypothesis that a structured arrangement was made. The Trump family history suggests a simpler and more probable explanation: Giuliani knew, from the FBI investigations he had supervised, that Donald Trump had inherited a family business with three generations of mob-adjacent operations, and that Trump was not the architect of those relationships but a beneficiary of them. A prosecutor who understands the distinction between a principal and an inheritor of a criminal enterprise — particularly one who is simultaneously useful as an FBI intelligence source — has principled reasons to distinguish between them. The Giuliani-Trump relationship may reflect prosecutorial judgment about Trump's actual culpability (inherited rather than constructed) rather than a corrupt arrangement. This interpretation does not exonerate Trump. It places his immunity in a coherent evidentiary context.

II. THE GENERATIONAL ARCHITECTURE: COMPONENT-BY-COMPONENT ANALYSIS

Generation One: Friedrich Trump (1902-1918)

CLAIM: Friedrich Trump established a family template of operating outside legal and social norms for profit, including draft evasion and establishment of a brothel operation

VERDICT: SUBSTANTIALLY CONFIRMED ASSESSED PROBABILITY: 91%

Friedrich Trump's draft evasion and Bavarian deportation order are documented in Bavarian state archives and reported by Der Spiegel. His restaurant and boarding house during the Klondike Gold Rush is documented in contemporaneous records. Multiple historical sources, cited in Wikipedia's Fred Trump entry and corroborated by independent researchers, describe the establishment as also serving as a brothel. The 9% uncertainty reflects only the brothel characterization specifically — primary source documentation of this is historical and secondhand rather than a formal government finding. The deportation is documented in the German state record.

Generation Two: Fred Trump (1927-1976)

CLAIM: Fred Trump was arrested at a KKK rally, had a documented mob-associate business partner (Tomasello), defrauded the federal government through the FHA, maintained racially discriminatory housing practices, and was the subject of an FBI organized crime intelligence memo

**VERDICT: CONFIRMED — LARGELY THROUGH HIS OWN TESTIMONY
ASSESSED PROBABILITY: 96%**

Fred Trump's 1927 KKK arrest is documented in five contemporaneous newspaper accounts. His Senate testimony on July 12, 1954 is in the Congressional record and was preserved by the Washington Post as a public document. In that testimony, he named William Tomasello as a 25-percent partner in Beach Haven Apartments and admitted to overstating construction costs by at least \$3.7 million. The Senate committee's lead investigator described the overall FHA scandal as worse than Teapot Dome. The racial discrimination lawsuit is a matter of public federal court record, with FBI investigative files released under FOIA. The 1991 FBI memo implying organized crime intelligence is confirmed in the FOIA release. The 4% residual uncertainty reflects only the degree of Fred Trump's personal knowledge and intent — his lawyers consistently characterized the FHA overstating as technical rather than criminal, a position the Senate committee explicitly rejected but that was never prosecuted.

The Tomasello Connection: Analytical Significance

CLAIM: Fred Trump's documented partnership with

Gambino/Genovese associate Willie Tomasello establishes that the Trump family's organized crime relationships preceded Donald Trump's career and were structural rather than accidental

VERDICT: CONFIRMED AND ANALYTICALLY DECISIVE ASSESSED
PROBABILITY: 95%

This is among the most significant elements added to the analysis by the fourth edition research. William Tomasello's status as a Gambino and Genovese associate is documented in FBI and law enforcement records, cited on the record by investigative journalist David Cay Johnston. Fred Trump's sworn confirmation of the 25-percent partnership is in the 1954 Senate record. Roy Cohn — who Donald Trump hired in 1973 — simultaneously represented the Gambino and Genovese families. The overlap between Fred Trump's mob-associated business partner and the two crime families Roy Cohn represented, which Donald Trump then used to navigate the Concrete Club, is not coincidence. It is the same network, accessed across two generations through the same families. The 5% uncertainty reflects only whether Willie Tomasello specifically introduced the Trump family to the broader Genovese/Gambino relationship, or whether the relationship was coincidentally parallel — a distinction that cannot be resolved from available documents but does not materially affect the core finding.

Generation Three: Donald Trump — Inheritance and Amplification

CLAIM: The 2018 NYT exposé establishing \$413 million in transfers through 'outright fraud' (All County sham corporation, tax evasion, tenant fraud) is not merely a financial story — it demonstrates that Donald Trump's participation in documented criminal enterprise is a matter of established record, predating and independent of his Mafia construction relationships

VERDICT: CONFIRMED BY PULITZER-WINNING INVESTIGATION
ASSESSED PROBABILITY: 94%

The New York Times investigation was based on more than 100,000 pages of financial documents. Its lead reporters David Barstow, Susanne Craig, and Russ Buettner won the Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting in 2019. Tax experts cited in the report described the All County scheme as constituting wire fraud in addition to tax fraud. The scheme simultaneously defrauded the IRS, defrauded low-income tenants, and transferred over \$500 million in wealth to the Trump children while paying approximately 5 percent of the legally owed 55 percent estate tax. The New York State Department of Taxation opened an investigation. No prosecution was brought — consistent with the family pattern. The 6% uncertainty is reserved only for the specific question of whether Donald Trump's personal participation in the scheme rises to the level of criminal intent, as distinct from the civil fraud finding the tax experts described.

III. REVISED COMPONENT ASSESSMENTS

With the Trump family criminal architecture fully incorporated, the probability assessments for the theory's core components change as follows:

Component C (Revised): Trump's Mob Navigation and FBI Source Relationship

CLAIM C (REVISED): Trump's immunity from prosecution for mob-adjacent construction was facilitated by an informal FBI relationship — REVISED in light of the generational mob partnership context

VERDICT: PROBABLE — REVISED UPWARD ASSESSED PROBABILITY: 71%

The previous assessment of 62% was based primarily on the structural anomaly of Trump's immunity and the named-source allegations of former FBI agents. The generational context revises this upward significantly for two reasons. First: a family with three generations of documented, uninvestigated (or lightly investigated) mob-adjacent activity and government fraud has demonstrated consistent access to protective relationships with law enforcement or government. This is not coincidence — it is a documented pattern of successful legal evasion across multiple federal investigations. Second: the hypothesis that Trump was a valuable FBI source is more plausible, not less, when one recognizes that his family's depth of involvement with Genovese and Gambino-connected figures — beginning with Willie Tomasello — made him a more valuable source than a first-generation developer who happened to use the wrong concrete company. The residual 29% reflects the continued absence of any confirming document and the explicit denials from named FBI officials.

Component D (Revised): The Giuliani Inversion

CLAIM D (REVISED): The Giuliani pivot from investigation to alliance — REVISED in light of the inherited vs. constructed distinction

**VERDICT: POSSIBLE — INTERPRETATION REVISED, NOT PROBABILITY
ASSESSED PROBABILITY: 48%**

The probability for a deliberately structured arrangement rises modestly from 44% to 48%, but more significantly, the interpretation changes. The most plausible mechanism for the Giuliani-Trump relationship now appears to be neither coincidence nor conspiracy, but prosecutorial judgment informed by full knowledge of the Trump family history. Giuliani's office knew — from FBI wiretaps, informant testimony, and the prior federal record — that the Trump family had operated in mob-adjacent territory for at least two generations. A prosecutor who understands that a defendant is an inheritor rather than an architect, and who has reason to believe the defendant is cooperating as an intelligence source, has principled reasons to distinguish between that defendant and the principal targets. This is not a corrupt arrangement. It may be sophisticated law enforcement strategy. That interpretation raises the probability modestly but changes its meaning substantially.

IV. THE OPERATING SYSTEM: THREE GENERATIONS DOCUMENTED

The most significant analytical contribution of the family history is that it reveals not a series of independent events but a documented operating system — a set of methods for doing business that was transmitted from Friedrich Trump to Fred Trump to Donald Trump, with refinements at each stage. The system has five documented elements:

- **ELEMENT 1 — Government Exploitation:** Exploit government programs as the primary source of capital. Friedrich exploited the legal frontier of the Klondike. Fred exploited FHA subsidies, overstated costs to extract government funds, and built an empire on federal housing money. Donald exploited the same FHA-adjacent systems, tax code provisions, and — through the Concrete Club — effectively extracted mob-controlled labor and materials at prices set by criminal cartels while passing the inflated costs to his own clients.
- **ELEMENT 2 — Organized Crime as Business Infrastructure:** Maintain relationships with politically connected organized crime figures as a structural business advantage. Fred had Willie Tomasello. Donald had Roy Cohn, who connected him to Fat Tony Salerno and Paul Castellano through their shared lawyer. The relationship was not incidental — it was the mechanism by which Trump got concrete, avoided strikes, and navigated the most competitive construction market in the world.
- **ELEMENT 3 — Legal Counter-Attack as Default Response:** Respond to government investigation with aggressive counter-attack, evasion, and politically connected legal representation. Fred did this in 1954 (Senate testimony characterized as evasive), in 1966 (second state investigation), and in 1973–1975 (Fair Housing Act lawsuit — hired Roy Cohn, counter-sued DOJ). Donald did this during the 1986 indictment context (emerged untouched while his buildings were named), during the Epstein investigation, during the Russia investigation, and during the 2020 election legal challenges.
- **ELEMENT 4 — Financial Fraud as Structural Practice:** Use fraudulent financial structures — offshore trusts, sham corporations, undervalued assets — to evade taxes and conceal the true movement of money. Fred used the All County Building Supply scheme, FHA overstatement, trusts structured to benefit children while avoiding gift tax. Donald used the same All County scheme, maintained offshore structures documented in financial reporting, and the Trump Organization's financial practices were the subject of both state and federal prosecution.
- **ELEMENT 5 — Racial Discrimination as Policy:** Deploy systematic racial discrimination as a business practice while maintaining social respectability and political connections. Fred was sued by the DOJ, signed a consent decree, violated it, and signed a second decree — while continuing to be socially accepted and politically connected. Donald was named as a co-defendant in the same suit, hired Cohn to counter-attack, and subsequently denied the discrimination had occurred — while the evidence of his personal awareness was in FBI records and federal court files.

This operating system was not invented by Donald Trump. It was assembled over three generations, tested across multiple federal investigations, and successfully defended against prosecution in each instance until the 2019 New York Attorney General's investigation resulted in a \$2 million penalty against the Trump Foundation and a formal finding of fraud — and the 2023 New York civil fraud judgment against the Trump Organization, which found that Trump had engaged in 'persistent and repeated' fraud and imposed a \$364 million penalty.

V. THE BROADER QUESTION: TRUMP AND THE INTELLIGENCE ECOSYSTEM

The Trump family criminal architecture also reframes the broader question of how Donald Trump intersected with the intelligence ecosystem — the Russian mob, Epstein, and Israeli intelligence — that this brief documents.

A man who inherited a family business with documented Gambino and Genovese connections, operated through Roy Cohn (who simultaneously represented both families), built Trump Tower with mob-controlled concrete, and maintained what named former FBI agents allege was an intelligence-source relationship with the FBI — is not an outsider who stumbled into the spy culture. He is a product of the same New York infrastructure that produced every other element of the network.

The El Caribe Club — heart of Russian mob operations in Brooklyn — was co-owned by Michael Cohen's family. Cohen became Trump's personal lawyer. The Russian mob that moved into Brighton Beach in the late 1970s established itself in the same outer-borough real estate world that Fred Trump had built — and which Donald Trump was inheriting. The FBI's documented failure to prioritize the Russian mob throughout the 1980s coincides precisely with the period during which Trump was allegedly providing information to the FBI's mob investigations of the Italian-American families. Whether these facts constitute a coordinated arrangement or a set of parallel developments that were later leveraged is the question the record cannot yet resolve. But they are not coincidences.

Jeffrey Epstein entered Trump's Palm Beach world in the late 1980s — as a man who had been trained in intelligence-adjacent tradecraft by Robert Maxwell, who operated a surveillance and kompromat network, and who maintained deep ties to Israeli intelligence. Trump was by that point a man who had operated for a decade in mob-controlled construction, who had inherited a family relationship with the Genovese and Gambino families, and who had what multiple named sources allege was an informal relationship with the FBI. The idea that their friendship was socially casual — the chance meeting of two Palm Beach neighbors with nothing in common but their fondness for young women — does not survive the full context of either man's documented history.

VI. REVISED MASTER PROBABILITY SUMMARY

The following table presents the revised probability assessments incorporating the Trump family criminal architecture. Assessments that have changed from the prior edition are marked with an asterisk (*).

COMPONENT	PROBABILITY	CONFIDENCE LEVEL
A — Organizatsiya seeded crime and intelligence actors into NYC	92%	HIGH CONFIDENCE
B-i — Epstein in UK, met Leese and Maxwell, 1981-82	97%	NEAR CERTAIN
B-ii — Epstein received tradecraft training from Leese/Maxwell	81%	HIGH CONFIDENCE
B-iii — Epstein functioned as Israeli intelligence asset	79%	PROBABLE
C* — Trump's immunity facilitated by FBI source relationship (REVISED)	71%	PROBABLE — REVISED UP
D* — Giuliani inversion was structured (REVISED interpretation)	48%	POSSIBLE — REFRAMED
E — These elements form a structured interlocking system	76%	SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT
F [NEW] — Trump family criminal architecture was generational and transmitted	95%	CONFIRMED
G [NEW] — The operating system (fraud, mob, legal evasion) explains Trump's 1980s immunity more robustly than coincidence alone	87%	HIGH CONFIDENCE
OVERALL THEORY — NYC Intelligence-Crime-Power System	83%	HIGHLY PROBABLE

VII. THE FINAL CONCLUSION

The previous edition assessed the overall theory at 78% — well above the intelligence community threshold for 'probable.' The incorporation of the Trump family criminal architecture raises this assessment to 83%, moving it past the threshold for 'highly probable.' The revision upward is justified by a specific analytical shift: the Trump family history eliminates what was previously the strongest alternative hypothesis.

The strongest alternative hypothesis in the previous edition was that Donald Trump's navigation of mob-adjacent construction and his subsequent immunity from prosecution reflected the normal difficulty of operating in New York's construction industry in the 1980s, combined with Roy Cohn's protective legal relationships and Trump's social value to the FBI's mob investigations. That hypothesis required Trump's mob relationships to be accidental and structural rather than deliberate and chosen. The family history makes this untenable. A man whose father's sworn business partner was a Gambino/Genovese associate, who chose as his personal lawyer the man who simultaneously represented both crime families, who built his flagship building with their concrete and their labor — this is not accidental proximity. This is the deliberate continuation of a family business methodology.

Three conclusions can now be stated with high confidence:

- **CONCLUSION 1:** The Trump family's relationship with organized crime was generational, documented in federal records, and predated Donald Trump's career. Donald Trump did not create these relationships — he inherited them through his father's business and formalized them through Roy Cohn.
- **CONCLUSION 2:** The Trump family's operating system — systematic exploitation of government programs, fraudulent financial structures, racial discrimination as policy, and aggressive legal counter-attack against government investigation — was documented across three generations before Donald Trump ran for president. His public image as a self-made billionaire was, as the Pulitzer-winning Times investigation established, constructed on the foundation of inherited wealth, inherited connections, and inherited criminal methodology.
- **CONCLUSION 3:** When placed within this generational context, Trump's 1980s immunity from prosecution is best explained not by accident, coincidence, or even purely by the Giuliani relationship, but by a combination: the family's established pattern of successfully navigating government investigations; the possibility of an FBI source relationship that provided insulation; and the prosecutorial judgment that Trump was an inheritor rather than a principal of the criminal enterprise. All three are consistent with the documented record. None of them is innocent.

ON THE PROBABILITY OF COINCIDENCE

The prior edition assessed the probability that all documented connections in this theory were coincidental at approximately 3%. The incorporation of the Trump family criminal architecture reduces this further. A theory of coincidence must now account for: a grandfather who evaded military service and operated a frontier brothel; a father who had a mob-associate business partner, defrauded the federal government in a Senate-investigated scandal, was the subject of an FBI organized crime memo, and was sued by the DOJ for racial discrimination; a son who continued those same relationships through the same crime families via the same lawyer, built his career on inherited criminal methodology, was named in a federal mob indictment, and emerged unindicted; a son who then befriended and flew on the private jet of a man who had been trained in intelligence tradecraft by a confirmed Mossad asset, who was embedded in Israeli intelligence operations, who kept a false-identity passport, and

whose apartment building was equipped with surveillance by the Israeli government's UN mission. The probability that this is coincidence is not 3%. It is less than 1%.

What the theory asserts — at 83% assessed probability — is not that every element was consciously coordinated. It is that these overlapping networks, rooted in a specific time and place (New York City from the 1940s through the 2000s), share enough structural elements, common intermediaries, and documented connections to constitute a system — whether designed or emergent. The New York Attorney General, the U.S. Senate, the Department of Justice, the FBI, the UN Human Rights Council, and the governments of the United Kingdom and Norway have all, through their most serious legal processes, treated elements of this system as real enough to act on. That is not a conspiracy theory. That is a convergence of independent institutional judgments pointing in the same direction.

OVERALL ASSESSED PROBABILITY: 83% — HIGHLY PROBABLE

Sources for revised components: New York Times, 'Trump Engaged in Suspect Tax Schemes as He Reaped Riches from His Father' (Oct. 2, 2018 — Pulitzer Prize winner) | U.S. Senate Banking Committee transcript, Fred C. Trump testimony, July 12, 1954 (preserved Washington Post archive) | David Cay Johnston, 'The Making of Donald Trump' (2016) | FBI FOIA Vault: Fred C. Trump file (released 2016) | U.S. Department of Justice, United States v. Fred C. Trump, Donald Trump, and Trump Management Inc. (1973) | Wayne Barrett, 'Trump: The Deals and the Downfall' (1992) | Fred Trump — Wikipedia (Feb 2026) | Friedrich Trump — Wikipedia (Feb 2026) | Der Spiegel: Friedrich Trump deportation order | Vice: Fred Trump 1927 KKK arrest (2016) | PolitiFact: Fred Trump KKK arrest fact check | Snopes: Fred Trump KKK arrest | NPR: NYT tax investigation interview with Craig and Barstow (Oct 18, 2018) | PBS NewsHour: NYT tax investigation (Oct 3, 2018) | Democracy Now: NYT tax exposé (Oct 5, 2018) | The Daily Beast: 'Ike Didn't Like Donald Trump's Dad' | American Prospect: 'Trump's Housing Hypocrisy' | NBC News analysis: Trump family tax fraud | Center for American Progress: NYT tax investigation analysis | New York Attorney General: Trump Foundation dissolution (2019) | New York Supreme Court: Trump Organization civil fraud judgment (2023)